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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.

## Senate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign King, our hope for years to come, deliver us from the sin of running from the truth. Remind us often that truth brings freedom.

Thank You that You are our helper, sustaining our lives and keeping us strong. You guide us through the wilderness and protect us through life's storms.

Lord, inspire our lawmakers to place themselves into Your hands, permitting You to fulfill Your purposes through their faithful toil. Fill them with reverential awe and give them a sanctified audacity, even when facing trials and setbacks.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, it came to our attention last night that members of the National Guard, after standing on duty to protect the Capitol for Inauguration Day, keeping us safe, were sleeping in parking garages and cramped quarters without proper space or ventilation. It was utterly unacceptable.

I have told those who run the security of the Capitol that it can never happen again, and I pledge to every National Guard member that it will not happen again.

The minute I heard about this outrage last night, we made sure it was fixed immediately. Every member of the Guard was found proper accommodations inside, and, as of this morning, everyone was accounted for and taken care of.

This morning I went over to the CVC and I spoke to a number of Guardsmen personally to make sure they were OK.

I want to thank Senators HASSAN, DUCKWORTH, KELLY, and HEINRICH for their work on this matter last night, as well as Senator LUJÁN, who went around late at night to make sure things were OK, as well. And I want to thank all the Members who were concerned and lent a hand.

I also want to particularly thank Acting Sergeant at Arms Jennifer Hemingway, who, when we told her about this situation, patrolled the floors of the Capitol Complex until past 3 a.m. to ensure that no one was left behind or not where they belonged. And she was back at her desk first thing today to follow up.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the men and women who worked to keep us safe on January 6 and the days since. A situation like last night will never happen again.

### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, I have spoken about the Senate's agenda for the next several weeks. We have three essential items on our plate: one, the confirmation of President Biden's Cabinet and other key officials; two, legislation to provide desperately needed COVID relief; three, a second impeachment trial of Donald Trump. The Senate must and will do all three—COVID relief, confirmation of nominees, and an impeachment trial.

Now, the first order of business is to fulfill our constitutional duty to advise and consent on the President's appointments to his Cabinet. This morning the Senate will vote to confirm President Biden's nominee for Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin. Mr. Austin will be the first African American to ever helm the Defense Department in its history—a powerful symbol of the diversity and history of America's Armed Forces.

Mr. Austin has a storied career in the Army, but those days are behind him. As Secretary of Defense, he has promised to empower and lift up his civilian staff, and I believe he will be an outstanding Secretary of Defense for everyone at the Pentagon—servicemembers and civilian employees alike.

The Secretary of Defense, of course, has a hugely important task ahead of him. He must once again demonstrate

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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